

It may interest the readers of 'The Auk' to hear of the occurrence of the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), female, at Ann Arbor, in the latter part of December, and again in the early part of March, a foot of snow being on the ground at the latter date.

A small flock of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) was seen on May 24, and a number of individuals secured. It is considered a rare bird in that locality

Last spring also, I had brought to me for examination an egg of a common fowl about four inches in its long diameter, and the short diameter nearly equal to four inches. The shell was of average thickness, shell membranes normal. This egg not only contained white and yolk, but also a second egg of the usual size, with shell, membranes, and contents perfect. The shell of the inclosed egg was extremely thick. An interpretation of this phenomenon is easy enough; the smaller, normal-sized egg was evidently detained in the oviduct when just about to be laid, and then, having worked back to the region of the oviduct where the shell membrane is formed, met the descending yolk and white of the larger egg. A membrane was then deposited, not only around this second egg, but also around the first formed perfect egg; then both descended the oviduct, a shell was formed about them both, and the resulting 'double egg' expelled. The failure to lay the first egg may have been due to some temporary weakness of the muscles employed.—F. L. WASHBURN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

*Polioptila plumbea* at Palm Springs, California.—During the latter part of April I spent a week collecting at Palm Springs in company with Mr. W. W. Price, and together we secured eight specimens of *Polioptila plumbea*, the first taken west of the Colorado River, I believe. Palm Springs is situated in the extreme western end of the Colorado Desert, about midway between the coast and the Colorado River, seven miles south of Seven Palms, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, and about seventy miles from San Bernardino. *P. plumbea* were found in a dry sandy wash near the settlement, in the tangled thickets of the creosote brush (*Larrea mexicana*). They undoubtedly breed there, as two young scarcely able to fly were secured, and others seen. Three males had the black cap fully developed.

*Harporhynchus lecontei* and *Callipepla gambeli* were found with young, but very shy.—FRED. O. JOHNSON, *Riverside, California.*

Winter Notes from Portland, Maine. — The exceptionally mild winter of 1888-89 was not without its effect on the birds about Portland. During the fall migration a great many of the Sparrows and Warblers prolonged their stay a week or ten days, or even longer, beyond their usual date. A noteworthy case was that *Dendroica coronata* which remained until December 6. There appears to be no previous December record of this